

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY					Attorney's Docket No. 203-0125													
<p>As a below named inventors, we hereby declare: Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our name;</p> <p>We verily believe we are the original, first and sole inventors or an original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled</p> <p>AUTOMOTIVE TAILGATE WITH LIFT ASSIST SYSTEM - I</p> <p>the specification of which is attached hereto.</p> <p>We have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified above, including the claims.</p> <p>We acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware that is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Section 1.56(a), Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and as to application for patents or inventor's certificate on the invention filed in any country foreign to the United States of America, prior to this application by us or our legal representatives or assigns,</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no such applications have been filed, or</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> such applications have been filed as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below</p>																		
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING <small>(month, day, year)</small>	DATE OF ISSUE <small>(month, day, year)</small>	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.													
<p>We hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Application Number)</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Filing Date)</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)</td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Application Number)</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Filing Date)</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)</td> </tr> </table> <p>POWER OF ATTORNEY: - I/we hereby appoint the following Practitioners: Customer No. 32242, Jerome R. Drouillard - 28,008, as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and all foreign Patent Offices.</p>										(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)				(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
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Address all correspondence and telephone calls to: Customer No. 32242,

Jerome R. Drouillard
Dykema Gossett PLLC
315 East Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Phone: (734) 214-7670

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF INVENTOR:	RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	SIGNATURE	DATE
Stephen Lewis Bruford 7122 Cedar Bank West Bloomfield, MI. 48324	West Bloomfield, Michigan	Great Britain		
Jeffrey Alan Firzlaff 517 Walnut Avenue Royal Oak, MI. 48073	Royal Oak, Michigan	United States	<i>Jeffrey A. Firzlaff</i>	6/13/03
Scott G. Miller 48163 Royal Pointe Dr. Canton, MI. 48187	Canton, Michigan	United States	<i>Scott G. Miller</i>	6/13/03
Ed Rybarczyk 6988 Mckean Road, #84 Ypsilanti, MI. 48197	Ypsilanti, Michigan	United States		

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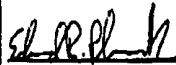
(3/80) LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 203-0125		SERIAL NO. To be assigned			
		APPLICANTS Stephen Lewis Bruford, Jeffrey Alan Firzlaff, Scott G. Miller and Ed Rybarczyk					
		FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP To be assigned			
U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	1.	2,984,517	1961/05/16	Farrow et al			
	2.	3,031,225	1962/04/24	Saffer et al			
	3.	3,336,070	1967/08/15	Jackson			
	4.	4,143,904	1979/03/13	Copper et al	296		
	5.	5,358,301	1994/10/25	Konchan et al	296		
	6.	5,988,724	1999/11/23	Wolda	296		
	7.						
	8.						
	9.						
	10.						
	11.						
	12.						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION Yes No
	1.						
	2.						
OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	1.						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
<small>* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>							

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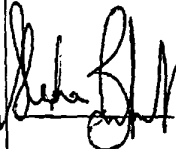
Jerome R. Drouillard
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POWER OF ATTORNEY OR AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT

Electronic Version v05

Stylesheet Version v05.0

Title of Invention	AUTOMOTIVE TAILGATE WITH LIFT ASSIST SYSTEM - I		
First Named Applicant: STEPHEN LEWIS BRUFORD Attorney Docket Number: 203-0125			
We hereby appoint the registered practitioner(s) at Customer Number: 32242 			
as our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.			
We are the Applicants/Inventors.			
Full Names of Applicants of Record:			
STEPHEN LEWIS BRUFORD			
Signature: /slb		Date: 2003-06-13	
JEFFREY ALAN FIRZLAFF			
Signature: /jaf		Date: 2003-06-13	
SCOTT G. MILLER			
Signature: /sgm		Date: 2003-06-13	
ED RYBARCZYK			
Signature: /er		Date: 2003-06-12	